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This section provides an overview of the National Transit Database (NTD) Monthly Ridership reporting requirements, including the following:

## What is the National Transit Database?

This section provides the legislative basis for the NTD reporting system.

#### **Changes in 2006 Reporting**

This section summarizes the changes in reporting requirements implemented in FY 2006.

## Who Reports, What to Report, How to Report, When to Report, and Where to Report

This section provides answers to basic reporting questions.

#### **Reference Information**

This section presents key definitions as well as reference resources and publications for further detail on issues related to reporting.

#### What is the National Transit Database?

The National Transit Database (NTD) is the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) primary national database for statistics on the transit industry. Recipients of FTA's <u>Urbanized Area Formula Program</u> (§ 5307) grants are required by statute to submit data to the NTD. Over 650 transit agencies and authorities file annual reports to FTA through the internet-based reporting system. Each year, NTD performance data are used to apportion over \$4 billion of FTA funds to transit agencies in <u>urbanized areas</u> (UZAs). Annual NTD reports are submitted to Congress summarizing transit service and safety data.

The NTD is the system through which FTA collects uniform data needed by the Secretary of Transportation to administer department programs. The data consist of selected financial and operating data that describe public transportation characteristics. The legislative requirement for the NTD is found in Title 49 U.S.C. 5335(a):

Section 5335(a) National Transit Database (1) To help meet the needs of individual public transportation systems, the United States Government, state and local governments, and the public for information on which to base public transportation service planning, the Secretary of Transportation shall maintain a reporting system, using uniform categories, to accumulate public transportation financial and operating information and using a uniform system of accounts. The reporting and uniform systems shall contain appropriate information to help any level of government make a public sector investment decision. The Secretary may request and receive appropriate information from any source.

(a)(2) The Secretary may make a grant under Section 5307 of this title only if the applicant and any person that will receive benefits directly from the grant are subject to the reporting and uniform systems.

The NTD reporting system evolved from the transit industry initiated Project <u>FARE</u> (Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Elements). Both the private and public sectors have recognized the importance of timely and accurate data in assessing the continued progress of the nation's public transportation systems.

## **Changes in 2006 Reporting**

In its ongoing efforts to improve upon the NTD Internet Reporting system and to be responsive to the needs of the transit agencies reporting to NTD and the transit community, FTA continues to refine and clarify reporting requirements and Internet Reporting.

Reporting changes for the 2006 NTD are highlighted below. Specific changes are discussed in detail in the applicable sections of this manual.

#### **Reporting Form Changes**

The following exhibit describes changes by reporting form.

## Exhibit 1 — FY 2006 Reporting Changes and Highlights

#### Reporting Requirement

All agencies are now required to submit Ridership data on a monthly basis.

## **NTD Monthly Ridership Manual**

Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) — *Two Changes* 

- 1. A new screen has been incorporated to facilitate adding and deleting mode / type of service (TOS) data.
- 2. **Form Notes** can now be attached to the form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD.

Ridership Activity form (MR-20) — Two Changes

- 1. The number of regular service days each month is now being collected.
- 2. **Form Notes** can now be attached to the form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD.

## Who Reports

Transit agencies that receive or benefit from <u>Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds</u> must submit or coordinate the submittal of the Monthly Ridership report. These transit agencies or organizations are generally referred to as recipients or beneficiaries.

## Recipients and Beneficiaries of Urbanized Area Formula Program Grants

Transit agencies that are recipients or beneficiaries of FTA Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds and that manage transit activities are responsible for submitting or coordinating NTD reports, regardless of whether they <u>directly operate</u> (DO) or <u>purchase</u> (PT) their transit services. These recipients or beneficiaries can be public entities directly operating services or contracting for all or part of the total transit service provided. The transit agency must report all of the service they provide or purchase, excluding services provided under demonstration grants or test projects funded through the <u>Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality</u> (CMAQ) program or other funds transferred into the Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF). The following are typical NTD reporters and requirements for recipients and beneficiaries of Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds.

## **Public Transit Agencies**

<u>Public transit agencies</u> must submit a NTD report through the life of the grant and / or the life of the capital equipment obtained through the grant (continuing requirements). If a transit agency does not spend funds from the grant for either <u>capital expenses</u> or <u>operating assistance</u> for the year, the transit agency must still file a NTD report if the grant is still active or capital equipment still has remaining useful life.

#### Example 1 — Continuing Requirements

A transit agency purchases a vehicle with Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds.

The vehicle, a 40-foot bus (MB), has a useful life of 12 years or 500,000 miles.

The transit agency must report under the NTD program throughout the useful life of the vehicle regardless of whether or not the transit agency receives Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds during a particular year.

## **Operators of Purchased Transportation Services**

Operators of <u>purchased transportation</u> (PT) services (<u>public transit agencies</u> or private carriers) that provide public transportation services under contract to recipients or beneficiaries of Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds must report data to the public transit agency for inclusion in the public transit agency's NTD report. The data pertain only to the services under contract.

This applies to almost all <u>private providers</u>. However, FTA is encouraging large sellers of purchased transportation (PT) which have historically submitted separate, complete NTD reports to FTA to continue to do so.

#### **Consolidated NTD Reporters**

Consolidated NTD reporters are a collection of transit agencies filing one report. One reporter may file a consolidated report on behalf of other reporters if it is easier to collect and control the quality of the data. This often occurs when one transit agency coordinates the development and funding of public transportation services in an area. Transit agencies filing a consolidated report must operate within the same urbanized area (UZA).

Transit agencies that wish to file a consolidated report must submit a request to FTA in writing. Such requests for consolidations are subject to FTA approval and must include the following:

- Name of the transit agencies to be included
- Fiscal year end dates for each transit agency
- Previous NTD identification numbers (NTD ID) of the transit agencies
- · Date for the first consolidated report.

## **Nine or Fewer Vehicles Waiver**

Transit agencies with nine or fewer <u>vehicles in annual maximum service</u> (VOMS) that operate only <u>non-fixed</u> quideway (NFG) systems are not required to file a Monthly Ridership report.

#### Voluntary Reporters

<u>Voluntary NTD reporters</u> are those transit agencies, <u>public</u> or <u>private</u>, which are not recipients or beneficiaries of <u>Urbanized Area Formula Program</u> (UAF) grants.

#### **Public Carriers**

Public carriers that do not use or do not have continuing requirements of Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds may voluntarily submit a complete NTD report.

#### **Private Carriers**

Private carriers that are not under contract to an Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) funds recipient or beneficiary may voluntarily submit a complete NTD report.

FTA encourages all voluntary public and private providers of public transportation services to report their services to the NTD program. Through the submission of complete and accurate reports, the NTD will be more reflective of the entire transit industry. Voluntary reporters that chose to report a full NTD Annual Report are required to complete monthly ridership (if applicable) reports.

## What to Report

The NTD report consists of a series of forms that collect monthly ridership data providing FTA with monthly trends in ridership throughout the year. It must contain all the <u>public transportation</u> service, including <u>complementary paratransit services</u> required by the <u>Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</u> (ADA), which the transit agency provides or purchases.

For purchased transportation (PT) service, the report must contain data only for those services under contract.

FTA will not grant special consideration to agencies or make adjustments to the apportionment formula due to strikes, labor disputes or work stoppages.

## **Reporting Modules and Forms**

Not all forms are required from all transit agencies. The size of the <u>urbanized area</u> (UZA), the number of vehicles operated and <u>type of service</u> (TOS) operated (<u>directly operated</u> (DO) or <u>purchased</u> (PT)) are factors that determine which forms are required. The following exhibit presents a summary of NTD reporting requirements.

#### Exhibit 2 — Summary of NTD Reporting Requirements

**NTD Monthly Ridership Report** 

Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)

All reporters

Ridership Activity form (MR-20)

All reporters

#### Calendar Year Data

Unlike the NTD Annual Report, which covers the 12-month fiscal year period, the data in the NTD Monthly Ridership report covers a 12-month period corresponding to the calendar year.

## **How to Report**

This section describes the following:

- NTD identification number (NTD ID)
- Internet Reporting
- · Reporting format
- Purchased transportation (PT).

#### The NTD Identification Number

Each transit agency is assigned a unique FTA NTD identification number (NTD ID) to be used in the NTD report and all correspondence. Each transit agency must have a NTD identification number before filing a report. If you are a new reporter and do not have a NTD identification number, please refer to the New Reporters discussion in the Annual Reporting Manual.

## **Internet Reporting**

All required forms, waivers, and declarations are completed using Internet Reporting which is accessible from the NTD website at www.ntdprogram.com. Completing the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) within the annual report automatically generates the required Ridership Activity forms (MR-20) for the transit agency.

This manual contains all information necessary to complete the Monthly Ridership report using Internet Reporting. See the Internet Reporting section of this manual for specifics. FTA provides Internet Reporting user names and passwords to transit agencies.

## **Reporting Format**

Transit agencies must submit their reports via the Internet Reporting system. A transit agency must file a complete report by the report due date. See the When to Report section below to determine your due date.

## **General Formatting Rules**

Data reported must adhere to the following rules:

- Follow rounding directions for each form
- Unless otherwise indicated, report data as whole numbers
- Use four digits for year entries.

Internet Reporting incorporates these rules, formatting data automatically when you complete a cell entry.

## **Reporting Purchased Transportation**

<u>Purchased transportation</u> (PT) service is service provided to a <u>public transit agency</u> or governmental unit from a <u>public</u> or <u>private</u> transportation provider based on a written contract. A contractual relationship exists only if all the following criteria are met:

- The <u>seller</u> is obligated in advance of the time the service is furnished to provide the operations for which the operating statistics are being reported for a specific <u>monetary consideration</u>.
- A written agreement exists that specifies the contractual relationship for the time period and the specific service generating the operating statistics included in the NTD report.
- The written agreement is signed by authorized representatives of both the <u>buyer</u> and the seller, and should detail the services to be provided, and the nature and amount of the monetary consideration.

Granting a transportation provider permission to operate certain services through a franchise or license does not, in itself, constitute purchased transportation (PT). Also, management services contracts, in which all or some personnel or services are provided to manage or operate the transit agency, are not purchased transportation (PT).

<u>Cooperative agreements</u> between public transit agencies or governmental units should not be reported as purchased transportation (PT) services.

## When to Report

Exhibit 3 — NTD Monthly Riders	hip Requirements and Timeline	•	
Form Name	Form Purpose	Reporting Frequency	Forms Submitted
Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)	Gives NTD the information needed to generate the ridership activity forms the transit agency will need to complete for the reporting year.	Annually (January) and when a mode or type of service is added or deleted	One per transit agency
Ridership Activity form (MR-20)	Provides NTD with monthly information on service provided by the transit agency.	Monthly	One per mode / type of service (TOS) combination
Monthly Reporting Due Dates			
Month		Due Date	
January		February 28	
February		March 31	
March		April 30	
April		May 31	
May		June 30	
June		July 31	
July		August 31	
August		September 30	
September		October 31	
October		November 30	
November		December 31	
December		January 31 of following y	rear

#### Failure to Report, Late Reports or Incomplete Letters

NTD requires transit agencies to submit complete reports according to the due date schedule. Failure to report results from not submitting a report, submitting a late report or submitting an incomplete report. As a result, your transit agency's data may not be included in the NTD. Furthermore, FTA may declare your transit agency ineligible to receive any Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) grants during an entire Federal fiscal year. This ineligibility applies to all transit agencies, regardless of the size of the urbanized area (UZA) served.

A report is considered late if it is not submitted by the due date. Refer to the exhibit NTD Annual Reporting Timelines for due dates.

A report is incomplete if it does not contain all the required reporting forms and data, is not in conformance with the NTD requirements, or does not contain the <a href="Chief Executive Officer">Chief Executive Officer</a> (CEO) Certification and <a href="Independent Auditor Statements">Independent</a> Auditor Statements (IAS), as applicable. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Certification and Independent Auditor Statements (IAS) are to be submitted with the NTD report. If there are data revisions to financial forms during validation, the <a href="Chief executive officer">Chief executive officer</a> (CEO) must concur with the revisions. If there are revisions to the Federal Funding Allocation Statistics form (FFA-10), both the chief executive officer (CEO) and the <a href="Independent auditor">Independent auditor</a>, as applicable must concur with the changes. The certification and statements do not have to be revised. Always retain copies of all submitted NTD forms, revisions and declarations for your records.

Transit agencies are required to respond to validation inquiries. Transit agencies receiving two Failure to Report letters or two Failure to Respond letters will be closed out immediately if their annual report is not submitted within the time indicated within the letter. This may affect your <u>Urbanized Area Formula Program</u> (UAF) funding eligibility and the amount of funding the UZA receives. If your transit agency serves a UZA with a population of 200,000 or more, data will not be entered into the formula for selected formula statistics.

## Where to Report

Transit agencies submit all NTD reports via Internet Reporting at the project's website, www.ntdprogram.com.

FTA assigns an NTD analyst to each reporting transit agency to assist reporters throughout the year. At the beginning of the reporting cycle, your NTD analyst will call you to introduce her / himself. Please feel free to contact your NTD analyst if there are any questions, or if FTA can do anything to assist you in reporting.

Exhibit 4 — NTD Contact Information	
Mailing Address  You can write to the FTA NTD Project Office at the following address:  Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database P.O. Box 457 Merrifield, VA 22116-0457  Please use the U.S. Postal Service for deliveries to this P.O. Box.	Telephone Your NTD analyst and other NTD staff can be contacted by telephone on weekdays. For telephone information and assistance, call the FTA NTD Project Office at: (703) 205-2475 The FTA NTD Project Office is open from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm (Eastern Time). If your NTD analyst is unavailable, you may use the voice-mail system and your call will be returned, or you may forward your call to another NTD analyst.
Express Delivery Address  Express deliveries can be made to the following address:  Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200 Fairfax, VA 22031	E-mail You can contact NTD staff by e-mail. E-mail addresses are located on Transit Agency Homepage at: www.ntdprogram.com Or contact your NTD analyst for individual e-mail addresses.
Fax The FTA NTD Project Office also maintains a 24-hour FAX service. You may FAX correspondence to the FTA NTD Project Office at:  (703) 876-4987 An original of all faxed documents must also be mailed to the FTA NTD Project Office.	Internet Finally, the FTA NTD Project Office manages a website at the following address:

#### **Reference Information**

This section contains two items necessary to understanding NTD reporting:

- 1. Transit terminology and parameters
- 2. Reference documents.

#### **Transit Terminology and Parameters**

Reporting data for the NTD requires an understanding of the following transit concepts and terms:

- Public transportation
- Mode
- Type of service (TOS)
- Maximum service vehicles.

Each of these terms is described in further detail in the sections that follow.

## **Public Transportation**

The definition of <u>public transportation</u> is important because the purpose of the NTD is to collect information on public transportation. As defined in the Federal Transit Act, public transportation means transportation by bus (MB) or <u>rail</u>, or other conveyance, either <u>publicly</u> or <u>privately</u> owned, providing to the public general or special service (but not including <u>school buses</u> or <u>charter</u> or <u>sightseeing</u> service) on a regular and continuing basis. Public transportation is also synonymous with the terms mass transportation and transit.

Public availability is a key part of the definition. Services defined as public transportation are available to any person who pays a prescribed fare and meets other availability requirements, such as the <u>Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</u> (ADA). Charter and school bus services are not considered public transportation because they serve specific groups of people and cannot be used by people not belonging to these groups. Service must be open to the general public, not only to specific categorical groups, such as school children.

NTD reporting is a requirement for recipients and beneficiaries of § 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF) of the Federal Transit Act. Under the Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF), the term public transportation usually applies to area-wide services primarily within an <u>urbanized area</u> (UZA). Since Congress uses NTD performance data in statutory formulae to apportion FTA funding to UZAs, the NTD can only contain public transportation or transit data. Transportation service that is not public transportation service should not be reported to the NTD. Public transportation is predominantly commuter service. For the purposes of the NTD, a commuter is a transit rider that travels back and forth during the same day primarily within a UZA. <u>Intercity bus services</u> are excluded under the Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAF). Intercity services are permitted for some commuter rail (CR) and ferryboat (FB) services and such that a person travels and returns on the same day. (Refer to the Basic Information module, Identification form (B-10) for NTD modal definitions and requirements).

For NTD reporting, FTA reserves the right to evaluate transit services as public transportation by requiring a written description of the transit services including availability and public notification of the availability of service, compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requirements, service area maps, schedules and public timetables, and other materials as necessary. In the case of new modes or significant expansion of transit services, FTA reserves the right to request passenger surveys.

#### Mode

A variety of transit modes are operated in the United States. The NTD reporting system groups transit modes into two broad categories — <u>rail modes</u> and <u>non-rail modes</u> — as follows:

Rail Non-Rail

Alaska railroad (AR)

Bus (MB)

Automated guideway (AG)
Cable car (CC)
Commuter rail (CR)
Heavy rail (HR)
Inclined plane (IP)
Light rail (LR)

Demand response (DR)
Ferryboat (FB)
Jitney (JT)
Publico (PB)
Trolleybus (TB)
Vanpool (VP)

Light rail (LR)

Monorail (MO)

Vanpool (VP)

Other (OR)

Modal definitions are used in the NTD reporting system in different ways. Transit agencies are required to report data according to the detailed modal definitions on most reporting forms (e.g., bus (MB), demand response (DR), vanpool (VP) and light rail (LR)). On selected forms (e.g., Transit Way Mileage form (A-20), Service form (S-10), Energy Consumption form (R-30), Federal Funding Allocation Statistics form (FFA-10)), different data items are required for rail and non-rail modes.

#### Type of Service

Public transportation can be provided in two ways:

- 1. <u>Directly operated</u> (DO) service, in which the NTD reporting agency, usually the public transit agency, uses its own employees to operate the transit vehicles and provide the transit service.
- 2. <u>Purchased transportation</u> (PT) in which the NTD reporting agency, usually the public transit agency, contracts with a <u>public</u> or <u>private</u> provider to operate the transit vehicles, employs the <u>operators</u>, and provide the transit service.

<u>Type of service</u> (TOS) is an important element of NTD reporting. On most reporting forms, transit agencies are required to report data by type of service (TOS).

#### Maximum Service Vehicles

The maximum service operated during the year is an important determinant of a transit system's size and resulting performance. Transit agencies are required to report data on two measures of maximum service:

- 1. Vehicles operated in annual maximum service (VOMS)
- 2. Vehicles available for annual maximum service.

<u>Vehicles operated in annual maximum service</u> (VOMS) is a count of the <u>revenue vehicles</u> scheduled for the peak day and operating period of the peak service season or schedule of the year. The revenue count is the

typical number of vehicles operated and does not consider the number of vehicles operated on atypical days such as holiday celebrations (e.g., Fourth of July), or one-time special events (e.g., World Series celebrations, political conventions).

<u>Vehicles available in annual maximum service</u> is a count of the revenue vehicles available to meet the maximum service requirement (revenue vehicles necessary to meet peak demand) for the fiscal year. This count of revenue vehicles includes:

- Vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS)
- Spare vehicles.

The count of vehicles does not include:

- Vehicles out for extended major repair or rehabilitation
- Emergency contingency vehicles.

<u>Spare vehicles</u> are revenue vehicles used to accommodate routine maintenance and repair operations, and to replace vehicles in scheduled service that breakdown or are involved in accidents.

<u>Emergency contingency vehicles</u> are inactive revenue vehicles that normally would have been disposed of at the end of their useful life. FTA allows transit agencies to retain these vehicles if they are stored and maintained, and part of an approved FTA Emergency Contingency Plan.

#### Reference Documents

The FTA <u>Uniform System of Accounts</u> (USOA) and Uniform System of Accounts and Records and Reporting System; Final Rule (CFR Part 630) is essential to understanding the forms and instructions presented in this manual. You can obtain these documents, as well as the other reference documents listed in the exhibit below, by visiting the NTD Project website at www.ntdprogram.com or calling the NTD Project Office at (703) 205-2475.

The following exhibit provides a list of other documents necessary for NTD reporting.

#### Exhibit 5 — Reference Documents

2006 National Transit Database Reporting Manual

FTA National Transit Database Uniform System of Accounts (USOA), January 1995

NTD Monthly Ridership Reporting Manual	

#### **Overview**

Transit agencies must use the National Transit Database (NTD) Internet Reporting system to provide their data via reports to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). NTD Internet Reporting is the online means for transit agencies to enter, save, review and revise data, and submit reports. It provides for timely and accurate reporting as all tasks and requirements for the NTD can be fulfilled via this system.

This section provides Internet Reporting information for the Monthly Ridership NTD report. Separate instructions for annual and safety and security Internet Reporting are included in the Annual Reporting Manual and the Safety and Security Reporting Manual.

## What Has Changed from Prior Year

There are no changes for the 2006 report year.

#### Internet Reporting System Security

Numerous measures have been taken to ensure that all data entered into the Internet Reporting system are safe and available only to those with proper access. The NTD servers and network are secured behind a firewall. The website operates the secured web protocol, https, and the entire site is password protected. Additionally, multiple server and database protection layers protect the database files.

#### **Detailed Instructions**

## **Accessing Internet Reporting**

Internet Reporting is accessed from the NTD Home page.

To access Internet Reporting:

- Connect to the Internet via your Internet service provider (ISP)
- Verify your Internet browser settings
- Access the Internet Reporting website at www.ntdprogram.com
- Access your transit agency's NTD report via the Annual Report Home link.

#### Connecting to the Internet

Use your Internet service provider (ISP) to connect to the Internet. Internet Reporting requires a web browser that is at least a 6.x version (Internet Explorer 6.0).

If you don't have the latest version of the browser, go to Microsoft.com to download the latest version free of charge.

#### **Verifying Your Internet Browser Settings**

Verify that your browser is set to check for newer versions of stored pages with each visit to the page.

In Internet Explorer, this is done by accessing Tools / Internet Options / General / Temporary Internet Files Settings / Every Visit to Page.

#### The National Transit Database Website



The NTD Home Page offers the following information and data for reporters and others interested in the NTD:

- Publications: Downloadable publications, including the NTD Reporting Manual, Data Tables, Profiles,
   National Transit Summaries and Trends and other related NTD reference materials.
- NTD Data: View, print or download historical NTD data.
- Seminars: NTD Reporting Seminars are posted as they are scheduled for the year. You can also register
  for the seminars, check your registration status and find all information regarding NTD seminars from this
  link.
- **Contact NTD / Feedback:** The mailing address, telephone number and fax number for the NTD Program as well as an opportunity to provide comments or suggestions regarding the NTD Program.
- Public Discussion: A public forum for discussions regarding the NTD. Suggestions are encouraged. Unlike
  the NTD Reporter Discussion area, this area is open to the general public. Posting any proprietary or
  sensitive information is not recommended.
- Current Reporting Manual: The Reporting Manual for the current report year in both PDF and HTML formats for easy reference.
- **NTD Agency Information:** Contact information for transit agencies in the National Transit Database (NTD). A link to each transit agency's homepage is also provided if available.
- Annual Report Home: Access to the NTD Annual and Monthly Ridership Report login for the current report year.
- Safety and Security Home: Access to the NTD Safety and Security Reporting Manual, Glossary, Newsletters and the Safety and Security login for the current report year.
- NTD Rural Report Home: Access to the NTD Rural Reporting Manual, Glossary and the Rural login for the current report year.

Also available via links on the NTD Home Page:

- US Department of Transportation (DOT) Home Page
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Home Page
- National Transit Library
- Accessibility
- NTD privacy notice.

## Accessing the Monthly Ridership Report

Clicking the **Annual Report Home** link will open the Internet Reporting **Logon** page. Enter your User Name and Password to gain access to **Annual Report Home**.

#### **Levels of Access**

Internet Reporting provides four levels of access to the Annual Report:

- 1. CEO access: Edit forms (data entry), approve Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Certification and submit report
- 2. Contact Person access: Edit forms (data entry) and submit report (administrator)
- 3. Editor access: Edit forms (data entry), cannot submit report
- 4. Viewer access: View only including forms, issues, notes and correspondence.

#### **User Names and Password**

The system access level is determined by the user name. The first three characters of the user name define the access level and the last four digits represent the transit agency's NTD ID. There are four types of user names corresponding to the four access levels available within the Annual Report:

- 1. CEO CEOxxxx
- 2. Contact person NTDxxxx
- 3. Editor EDTxxxx
- 4. Viewer VWRxxxx.

Each transit agency is e-mailed this set of user names with a password for each. Transit agencies determine access within their organizations and distribute user names and passwords accordingly.

A user can change his / her password at any time. Refer to Sys Admin: Changing Your Password for additional information on this topic. Users should be aware that passwords expire every ninety days.



The CEO and Contact Person (if the Annual Report Contact Person is the same individual that is responsible for the Safety and Security report), if they wish, may use the same password for both the Annual Report and the Safety and Security Report.

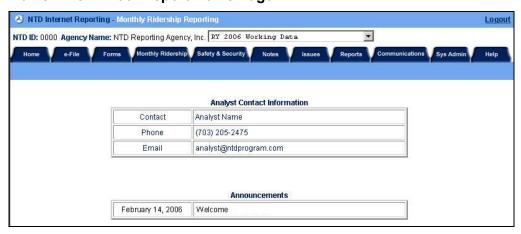


#### **NTD Report Structure**

Annual Report includes the following tabs:

- **Home:** The starting point when entering the NTD report. It displays the transit agency's NTD analyst information and any project related announcements.
- **e-File:** Currently provides a listing of all declarations, waivers, other general correspondence and current year report submission stages associated with the Annual report.
- Forms: Access to the Annual reporting modules and forms.
- **Monthly Ridership:** The NTD contact person is responsible for completing and submitting these two forms. The information is used by the NTD to collect monthly information regarding transit service provided by the transit agency.
- Safety and Security: Access to the Safety and Security forms.
- **Notes:** Internet Reporting allows the transit agency to create Form Notes to provide additional information applicable to the overall form. Displays all the Form Notes added to the transit agency's report.
- Issues: Currently displays only those Issues generated for the transit agency's NTD Annual report.
- **Reports:** Print and export reports. All reports have been developed to allow the transit agency to print each form or report without altering print settings to fit a form on the page. The reports listed will vary depending on access level.
- **Communications**: The **Communications** screen lists a record of the report submissions the agency has made to NTD, including any comments from the agency and the review status of the report.
- **Sys Admin:** Change NTD passwords—CEO, NTD Contact Person, Editor and Viewer. You may only change your password. Should you need assistance, contact your NTD analyst.
- **Help:** Online version of the Reporting Manual.

## **Home: The Annual Report Home Page**



After completing the logon process you will be taken to the **Annual Report Home** page. Click the **Home** tab near the top of any screen to return to the **Home** tab from another area.



#### Monthly Ridership: Providing Ridership Data to NTD

Click on the **Monthly Ridership** tab to open the **Monthly Ridership** screen. This screen provides links to the Monthly Ridership forms that your agency is required to complete.

Initially, the **Monthly Ridership** screen only provides access to one form:

1. Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)

After the transit agency reviews, completes and saves the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10), Internet Reporting automatically generates Ridership Activity form(s) (MR-20) for each mode / type of service operated by the agency.



#### **Notes: Providing Additional Information**

Click on the **Notes** tab to open the **Notes Summary** screen. Internet Reporting allows the transit agency to create a **Form Note** to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD.

## Creating a Form Note

To create a **Form Note** click on the **Add Form Note** link at the top right of the form you are editing or viewing. Internet Reporting will take you to the **Form Notes** screen for the specific form. Internet Reporting will pre-fill the mode and type of service (if applicable) for which the note is created. The transit agency completes the note comment.

To save a **Form Note**, click on the **Save** button at the bottom of the screen. To return to the form being edited without saving the note, click on the **Cancel** button.

#### Reviewing Form Notes

Click on the **Notes** tab to view the **Notes Summary** screen. You can review the **Form Notes** associated with a specific form or all **Form Notes** for the report. While working in a form click on the **Notes** tab to display the **Form Notes** screen for the form. The form name and mode / type of service will be displayed just beneath the tabs.

#### **Editing Notes**

While you are in **Working Data** you can edit a note after it has been created. Click on the **Edit Note** link in the far right column on the **Notes** screen. Once the NTD report is submitted the notes are frozen and cannot be edited. Notes can only be edited while in the **Working Data** report data set.

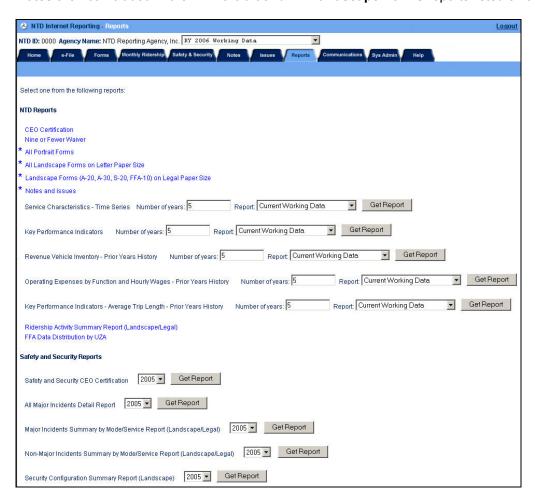
## Internet Reporting — Monthly Ridership



Notes are frozen with each submission. If the report is sent back to the transit agency and notes are reviewed or added, the previously submitted notes will not be affected.

## **Printing Form Notes**

Form Notes are printed as part of each form's report that is generated using the **Print** button at the bottom of each form. All **Form Notes** can be printed from the **Reports** tab by clicking the **All Form Notes** link. (**Form Notes** are not included in the **All Portrait** and **All Landscape Forms** reports listed on the **Reports** tab.)



#### Reports: Viewing, Printing, and Exporting Reports to Assist in Preparing the NTD Report

Click on the **Reports** tab to display the **Reports** screen. This screen provides access to several reports available to assist you in preparing your NTD report.

Before a report can be successfully opened the **Crystal Reports Viewer** must be downloaded to your personal computer (PC). Please refer to the section on **Printing** for instructions on downloading this viewer and also for viewing, printing and exporting a report.

To open a report click the corresponding link on the **Reports** screen.

## All Portrait Form Reports

Click on the **All Portrait Forms** and **All Landscape Forms** links to open all of the NTD report forms. You will not need to alter your printer orientation settings, as these will be set automatically.

The individual form reports included in the **All Portrait Form** reports include:

Mode Service Operated form (MR-10).

#### All Landscape Form Reports

The individual form reports included in the **All Landscape Form** reports are:

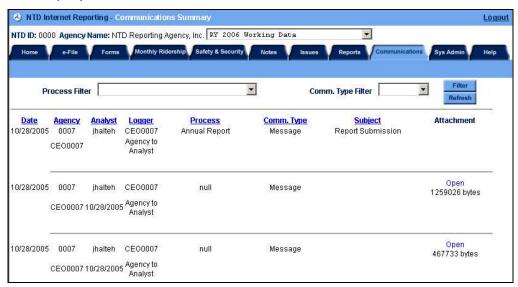
Ridership Activity form (MR-20)



The Form Notes associated with each form are not included in these reports. (They are, however, included on the individual form reports generated as a result of clicking the **Print** button on each form screen.)

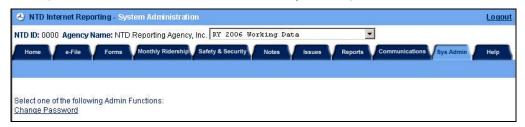
#### All Form Notes Report

Click on the **All Form Notes Report** link to print all of the Form Notes associated with the NTD Monthly Ridership report viewed on the **Form Notes** screen.



## Communications Summary: Viewing a History of Correspondence with NTD

The **Communications** tab gives transit agencies a centralized area in which to view past correspondence with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) National Transit Database (NTD) program. In addition, the correspondence view can be filtered to show only certain processes or communication types.

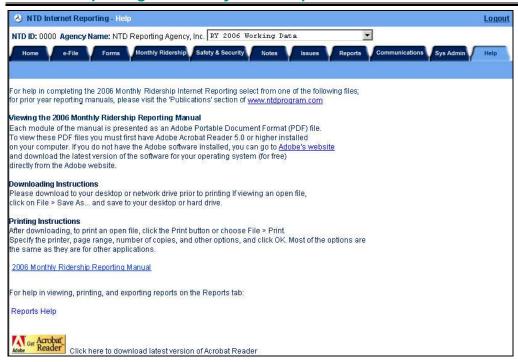


#### Sys Admin: Changing Your Password

The **Sys Admin** screen provides the ability to change your NTD password.

All passwords expire every ninety days. You can change your password at anytime on the **Sys Admin** screen by specifying your current and new password. To be valid, a password must be at least eight characters long and contain at least one letter and one number. It cannot contain spaces. Passwords are case-sensitive. If you do not update your password within the ninety-day term, you will be forced to update your password when you first access the system once the ninety-day period has expired. The screen is similar to the one available on the **Sys Admin** screen and the same password rules apply.

## Internet Reporting — Monthly Ridership



## **Help: Obtaining More Information**

Click on the **Help** tab to display the **Help** screen. The **Help** screen provides access to the 2006 NTD Reporting Manual for additional help in completing the NTD report forms. The **Help** screen displays the table of contents for the Reporting Manual with links to each section of the manual.

## **Tips for Using Internet Reporting**

#### **Navigating Between Screens**

Do not use the browser **Back** and **Forward** buttons to navigate between screens. Instead, use the Internet Reporting system buttons, tabs and links.

## Saving a Form

A **Save** button is provided at the bottom of each Internet Reporting form. When entering information into a form it is strongly recommended that you save the form frequently. This will prevent the loss of data if your Internet connection is unexpectedly lost. Also, Internet Reporting has an automatic time-out feature which will log you off of the system after a period of inactivity. It is strongly recommended that you save your work every 15 minutes. Otherwise, there is a risk that the next action you take on the system will result in the closure of the screen displayed in your browser and the loss of any data that you had not saved.

#### **Viewing, Printing and Exporting Reports**

Reports can be generated within the Internet Reporting system from either the **Reports** tab or from the individual form screens.

For trouble-shooting information refer to the **Announcement** section of the **Annual Report Home** page.

#### Downloading the Crystal Reports Viewer

In order to facilitate viewing, printing and exporting of reports Internet Reporting utilizes the Crystal Reports downloadable viewer and writer. You will be prompted to download the **Crystal Smart Viewer** for Active X free of charge the first time the print functionality is accessed, (a report link is clicked on the **Reports** tab or the **Print** button is clicked on a form page.). This download occurs only once and is absolutely necessary to view or print a report.

## Viewing a Report Online

Click on the **Report** link on the **Reports** tab to display the report within the **Crystal Reports Viewer**. Use the scroll bar or the following navigation buttons to scroll through the report:

- To go to the next page, use the right arrow
- To go to the previous page use, the left arrow
- To go to the last page, use the right arrow with a line to the right
- To go back to the first page, use the left arrow with a line to the left

You can also search for text within a report by clicking on the binoculars icon to display the **Search** dialogue box and then entering the text or key word you wish to find in the **Find What** field. If the text you entered is found within the report, it will be outlined in red.

#### To Print a Report from the Report Tab

Click on the **Report** link to display the report within the **Crystal Reports Viewer**. Click the **Print Report** button (printer icon) in the upper left corner of the viewer. Then click the **Print** button on the resulting **Print** screen.

## To Print a Form Report from a Form Screen

Click on the **Print** button supplied at the bottom of the form screen to display the report in the **Crystal Reports Viewer**. Click the **Print Report** button (printer icon) in the upper left corner of the viewer. Then click the **Print** button on the resulting **Print** screen.

#### **Exporting Reports**

From the **Reports** screen, click on the link for the report you wish to export. The report will display in the **Crystal Reports Viewer**. Select **Export Report** (envelope icon) in the left corner of the viewer. The **Report Export Viewer** window will be displayed.

In the **Save In** field, select the local or network drive where you would like your export file to be saved. From the **Save As Type Drop-Down** list field, select from one of the following export file formats:

- Microsoft Word (\*.doc)
- Microsoft Excel (\*.xls)
- Acrobat (\*.pdf)
- Rich Text (\*.rtf).

Enter the name of the export file in the **File Name** field and click the **Save** button.

Internet Reporting –	- Monthly Ridership	

This module contains two forms:

- 1. Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)
- 2. Ridership Activity form (MR-20).

Transit agencies with a Nine or Fewer Vehicles Waiver are not required to complete a Monthly Ridership report.

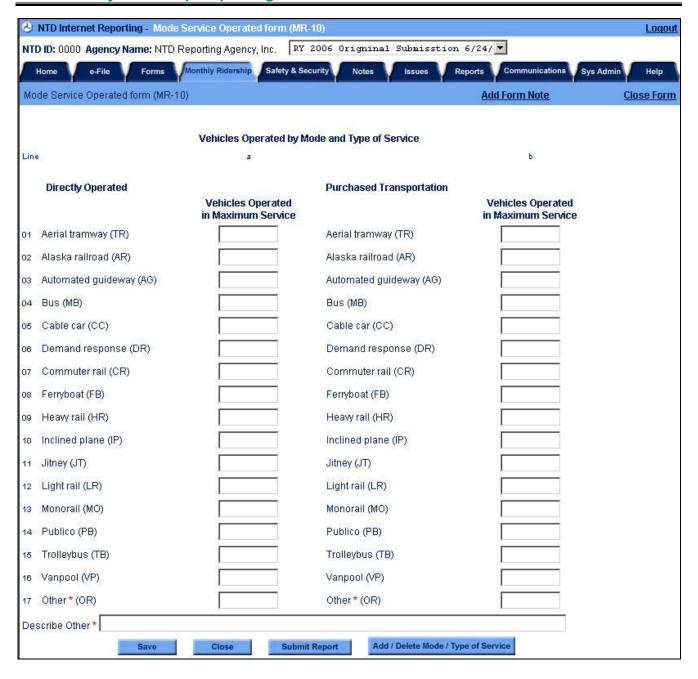
## **Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)**

The Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) is completed once at the beginning of the calendar year and revised only if there is a new mode and type of service (TOS) added to the system during the reporting period. This form collects the number of vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) by mode and type of service (TOS) by the agency at the beginning of the calendar year. Internet Reporting uses this information to generate the appropriate ridership activity forms for the transit agency.

## **Ridership Activity form (MR-20)**

The Ridership Activity form (MR-20) collects monthly information regarding transit service provided by the agency. These data provide FTA with monthly trends in passenger usage and service levels.

This form is required for all transit agencies, except those agencies with a Nine or Fewer Vehicles Waiver.



## **Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)**

#### **Overview**

This form collects the number of <u>vehicles operated in maximum service</u> (VOMS) by the agency, and is completed once at the beginning of the calendar year, unless there is a service change during the year. Internet Reporting uses this information to generate the appropriate Ridership Activity forms (MR-20) for the reporting period.

## **Reporting Requirements and Thresholds**

All agencies must complete the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) annually. The exception is transit agencies with a Nine or Fewer Vehicles Waiver, who need not complete this form. Data for the 2006 reporting year must be submitted by February 28, 2007.

#### What Has Changed from Prior Year

A new screen has been incorporated to facilitate adding and deleting mode / type of service (TOS) data.

**Form Notes** can now be attached to the form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD.

## **Approach**

The Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) is used to identify the modes and types of service (TOS) operated by the transit agency. The data reported on this form is used by Internet Reporting to generate the appropriate Ridership Activity forms (MR-20) for the transit agency for the calendar year.

Internet Reporting prepares one set of monthly forms for each mode / type of service (TOS) operated by the transit agency.

#### **Detailed Instructions**

When the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) is accessed, it will be pre-populated with data from the previous report year. This information has been transferred from the last Monthly Ridership report submitted by the transit agency. Please review this information for accuracy; the data most likely will have changed since your transit agency last submitted a Monthly Ridership report.

If you need to add or delete a mode or type of service (TOS), please contact your validation analyst. Common reasons for a mode / type of service being added or deleted:

- A mode / type of service (TOS) was discontinued,
- A mode / type of service (TOS) was inadvertently reported / omitted on the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10), or
- A new mode / type of service (TOS) began operation during the year.

#### Mode

Transit agencies operate one or more modes of transit service. A <u>mode</u> is a system for carrying transit passengers described by specific right-of-way (ROW), technology and operational features.



The Glossary at the end of this manual contains the detailed NTD modal definitions.

The NTD recognizes the following modes of public transit service:

<u>Aerial Tramway</u> (TR) Non-Rail – Fixed Guideway



A system of aerial cables with suspended vehicles. The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation in New York City operates this mode.

Cable Car (CC) Rail - Fixed Guideway



A railway propelled by moving cables located beneath the street. While popular at the turn of the last century, the only surviving system is operated in San Francisco.

<u>Ferryboat</u> (FB) Non-Rail – Fixed Guideway



A mode that carries passengers over a body of water using diesel or steam powered vessels.

<u>Automated Guideway</u> (AG) Rail – Fixed Guideway



An electric railway of guided vehicles that is operated with a computer and without vehicle operators. The transit systems in Detroit, Jacksonville, and Miami operate this mode.

<u>Commuter Rail</u> (CR) Rail – Fixed Guideway



Typically operated over old freight railroad lines and is diesel or electric propelled. Usually, the service operates between a central city and adjacent suburbs.

Heavy Rail (HR) Rail - Fixed Guideway



An electric railway with exclusive or separate right-of-way (ROW) from other vehicles or foot traffic. It has high passenger carrying capacity and high platform loading. Most of the nation's subway services are classified as heavy rail.

<u>Bus</u> (MB) Non-Rail – Fixed Guideway or Non-Fixed Guideway



The most prevalent mode in the country, and is powered by a motor and fuel contained within the vehicle.

<u>Demand Response</u> (DR) Non-Rail – Non-Fixed Guideway



Scheduled in response to calls from passengers. Passengers with similar origins and destinations are often scheduled to ride the same vehicle. Many transit systems operate demand response (DR) service to meet the Federal ADA requirements, and expenses and passenger trips are reportable for DR.

<u>Inclined Plane</u> (IP) Rail – Fixed Guideway



A railway operating on steep slopes and grades with vehicles powered by moving cables. The transit systems in Chattanooga, Cambria County, and Pittsburgh operate this mode.

#### <u>Jitney</u> (JT) Non-Rail – Non-Fixed Guideway



Operated on fixed routes using passenger cars or vans as demand warrants without fixed schedules or fixed stops. The Laguna Beach transit system operates this mode.

<u>Publico</u> (PB) Non-Rail – Non-Fixed Guideway



Operated over fixed routes, but not on fixed schedules. The service is privately owned and operated, but is regulated by local or state governments. The service in San Juan, Puerto Rico is the only publico service reported in the NTD.

Alaska Railroad (AR) Rail – Fixed Guideway



A special railroad that Congress recognized for certain FTA funding that operates in Alaska.

## <u>Light Rail</u> (LR) Rail – Fixed Guideway



An electric railway that operates in mixed traffic with automobiles or has grade crossings with automobiles. Typically, light rail (LR) trains are short and consist of one to two cars.

# <u>Trolleybus</u> (TB) Non-Rail – Fixed Guideway



A bus service operated using an electric bus that is powered by a motor drawing current from overhead wires using trolley poles. Trolleybus (TB) service is operated by the transit systems in Boston, Dayton (OH), Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle.

#### Monorail (MO) Rail - Fixed Guideway



An electric railway that is suspended from or straddles a guideway formed by single beam, rail or tube. The service in Seattle is the only public transportation monorail (MO) reported in the NTD.

# <u>Vanpool</u> (VP) Non-Rail – Non-Fixed Guideway



A commuting service operating under pre-arranged schedules for previously formed groups of riders in vans.

#### Other

If none of the choices fits your agency, select the category: Other. Internet Reporting will display a box for you to describe the other mode.

## Multi-Modal Vehicles

If a vehicle is used for more than one <u>mode</u>, report it under each mode for which it is used and describe the use of the vehicle using the **Add Form Notes** link.

For example, the transit agency may use five of its vehicles in <u>bus</u> (MB) mode during peak hours and, during non-peak hours, may use the five vehicles in <u>demand response</u> (DR) service. The vehicle would be reported as

bus (MB) and demand response (DR) on the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) and supports another mode should be indicated on the Revenue Vehicle Inventory form (A-30).

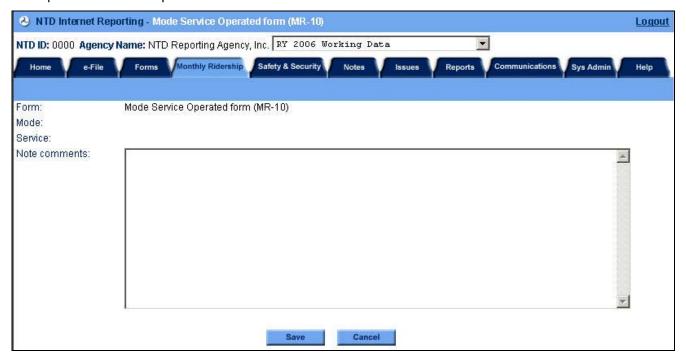
When all data have been entered into the form and verified for accuracy, click on the **Submit Report** button to generate the required forms.

#### **Vehicles Operated In Maximum Service**

For each mode provided by the transit agency, enter the number of vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) for January. In column a, enter the number of vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) for each <u>directly operated</u> (DO) mode by the agency. In column b, enter the number of vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) for each <u>purchased transportation</u> (PT) service mode.

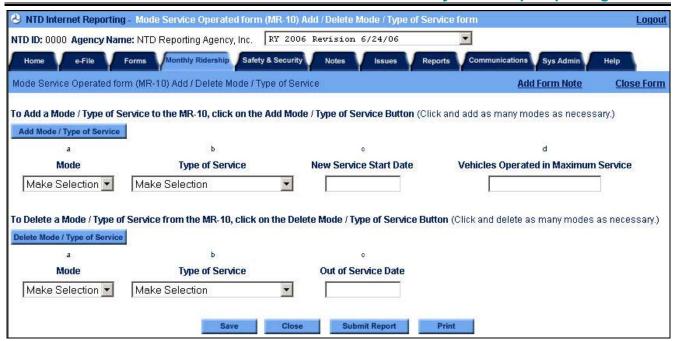
Only report the purchased transportation (PT) modes that are included in the agency's annual NTD report. Do not report vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) for purchased transportation (PT) service when another NTD agency will file the ridership reports.

If the agency operates a mode that is not listed on the form, select the category: **Other** and enter the number of vehicles operated in maximum service. Internet Reporting will also display a **Describe Other** box, so a description of the mode operated can be entered.



#### **Form Notes**

A **Form Note** can be attached to any form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to NTD. Use the **Add Form Note** link for relevant information to a specific field, to the entire form or to multiple forms. Click on the **Add Form Note** link at the top of the screen and enter your note on the **Notes** screen. You can review and / or edit a **Form Note** from the **Notes** tab.



## Add / Delete Mode / Type of Service

If the agency adds or discontinues a new mode / type of service (TOS) (<u>directly operated</u> (DO) or <u>purchased transportation</u> (PT)), click on the **Add / Delete Mode / Type of Service** button at the bottom of the form. A new screen will appear. Click on either the **Add** or **Delete Mode / Type of Service** button depending on whether a mode / type of service (TOS) is being added or discontinued. Select the mode and type of service from the **Drop-Down** boxes for the correct line and enter either the new service start date or the out of service date. Save the form and click on the **Submit Report** button.

## **Line by Line Instructions**

#### Completing the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)

From the Monthly Ridership tab, click on the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) link.

Complete the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10) following the instructions in this section.

#### **Form Notes**

A **Form Note** can be attached to any form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD. Use the **Add Form Note** link for relevant information to a specific field, to the entire form or to multiple forms. Click on the **Add Form Note** link at the top of the screen and enter your note on the **Notes** screen. You can review and *I* or edit a **Form Note** from the **Notes** tab.

#### **Getting Help**

Form Level Help: Click on the Help tab at the top of the screen for form level help.

#	Column	Item	Action	Instruction
1 – 17	а	Directly Operated (DO) — Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service (VOMS)	<b>Pre-filled</b> — review for accuracy, edit as necessary.	Enter the number of vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) for directly operated (DO) service by mode.  Other: Select if none of the above apply. Explain in the Describe Other field.
1 – 17	b	Purchased Transportation (PT) — Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service (VOMS)	<b>Pre-filled</b> — review for accuracy, edit as necessary.	Enter the number of <u>vehicles operated in maximum</u> <u>service</u> (VOMMS) for <u>purchased transportation service</u> (PT) by <u>mode</u> .  Other: Select if none of the above apply. Explain in the <b>Describe Other</b> field.
Add / Del	ete Mode / ٦	Type of Service form		
Add Mode	e / Type of S	ervice		
		Add Mode / Type of Service		Click on the <b>Add Mode / Type of Service</b> button to enter new service.
	а	Mode	Drop-Down menu.	Select the mode that your agency has begun operating from the <b>Drop-Down</b> menu.
	b	Type of Service	Drop-Down menu.	Select the type of service (TOS) that your agency has begun operating from the <b>Drop-Down</b> menu.
	С	New Service Start Date		Enter the date that the new mode / type of service (TOS) began.
	d	Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service		Enter the number of <u>vehicles operated in maximum</u> <u>service</u> (VOMS) for the new mode.
Delete Mo	ode / Type of	Service		
		Delete Mode / Type of Service		Click on the <b>Delete Mode / Type of Service</b> button to remove existing service.
	а	Mode	Drop-Down menu.	Select the mode that your agency has stopped operating from the <b>Drop-Down</b> menu.
	b	Type of Service	Drop-Down menu.	Select the type of service (TOS) that your agency has stopped operating from the <b>Drop-Down</b> menu.
	С	Out of Service Date		Enter the date that the mode / type of service (TOS) stopped operating.

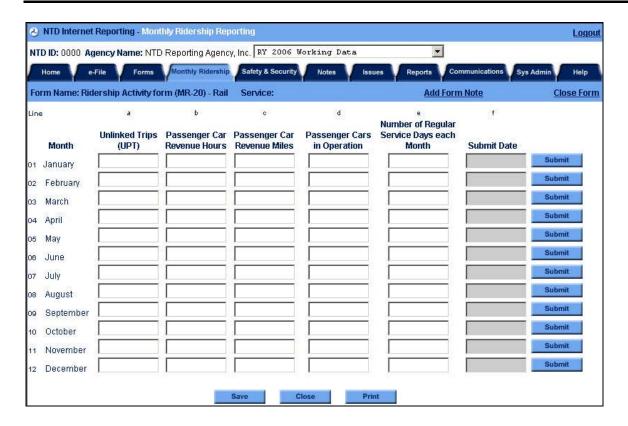
#### Saving the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)

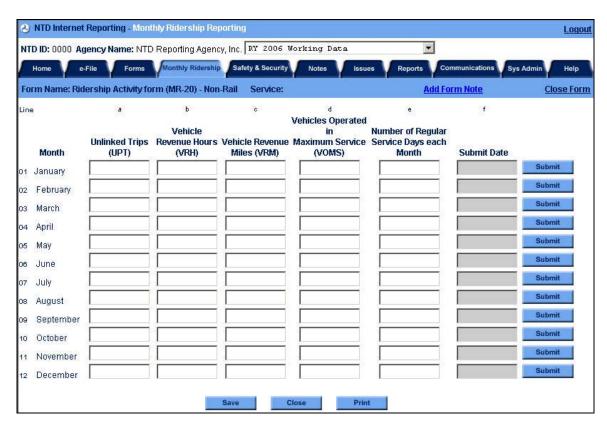
Click on the Save button at the bottom of the screen to save the form.

Click on the Close button at the bottom of the screen to close the form without saving.

#### **Submitting the Mode Service Operated form (MR-10)**

When all data have been entered and verified for accuracy, submit the form to FTA by clicking the **Submit Report** button. Click on the **Close** button to return to the **Monthly Ridership** tab.





## **Ridership Activity form (MR-20)**

#### **Overview**

## **Reporting Requirements and Thresholds**

Monthly ridership activity information is collected by <u>mode</u> and <u>type of service</u> (TOS). These data provide FTA with monthly trends in passenger usage and service levels.

Reporters must enter their data by the end of the month following the month for which data is being reported, i.e., January data is submitted by the last day of February.

## What Has Changed from Prior Year

The number of regular service days each month data are now being collected.

**Form Notes** can now be attached to the form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD.

## **Approach**

There are two Ridership Activity forms (MR-20) tailored for:

- 1. Rail
- 2. Non-rail.

The Ridership Activity form (MR-20) is used to report monthly data by mode and type of service (TOS) for the revenue vehicles used to provide transit service. The data include:

- Service consumed (unlinked passenger trips (UPT)
- Service supplied (<u>actual vehicle (passenger car) revenue miles</u> (VRM) and <u>hours</u> (VRH)
- Passenger cars in operation / vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS)
- Number of regular service days operated.

The data items in this form are similar to the annual data reported on the Service form (S-10). The expectation is that the data reported on the Ridership Activity form (MR-20) will be consistent with the annual data reported in the Service form (S-10).

#### **Detailed Instructions**

As the form is being completed, changes should be saved by clicking the **Save** button frequently. When all data have been entered for a particular month and the data have been verified for accuracy, the month's data can be submitted to FTA by clicking the **Submit** button for that row. Click on the **Close** button at the bottom of the form to close the form.

Ridership data can be updated and submitted until the end of February of each year, after this time revisions must be done through your validation analyst.

#### **Unlinked Passenger Trips**

<u>Unlinked passenger trips</u> (UPT) are the number of passengers who board <u>public transportation</u> vehicles. Passengers are counted each time they board vehicles no matter how many vehicles they use to travel from their origin to their destination.

Since it can be very difficult and costly to count each passenger (100 percent count), many transit agencies estimate annual unlinked passenger trips (UPT) based on a <u>sampling</u> procedure. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements are:

- Minimum confidence of 95 percent, and
- Minimum precision level of ±10 percent.

Transit agencies are not required to use a sampling procedure to estimate and report annual unlinked passenger trips (UPT). Actual counts (100 percent sample) are acceptable and meet FTA requirements. More detailed information about FTA's sampling requirements is presented in the Service Module section of the reporting manual.

Actual counts (100 percent sample) involve counting passengers each time they board a vehicle. This method is generally applicable to smaller systems, but its use is not precluded by a system's size. If 100 percent counts are available, they are preferable to sampling and should be reported on the Ridership Activity form (MR-20).

If the transit agency uses a sampling method, the total unlinked passenger trips (UPT) for a specific month should be estimated using the sample data collected during the month and the same procedure that the transit agency uses to estimate annual unlinked passenger trips (UPT). This approach may not meet FTA's confidence and precision levels for annual data, but does meet FTA's requirements for a good faith effort for reporting monthly data on the Ridership Activity form (MR-20).

If the transit agency changes its sampling procedure, it should revise its reported unlinked passenger trips (UPT) for the current year and the prior year using the new methodology. The transit agency should contact their validation analyst for assistance in reporting the revised estimates for the prior year.

Example 3 — Transit Agency Makes 100 Percent Count for Bus (MB) to Calculate the Total Unlin	ked
Passenger Trips for the Month	

t doorings. The for the mental								
Day	Number of Days in Month	Total Unlinked Passenger Trips						
Weekday	21	46,956						
Saturday	5	5,987						
Sunday	5	3,125						
<b>Solution:</b> The total upassenger trips for th		nd Sunday are summed to arrive at the total unlinked						
Total	31	56,068						

The transit agency reports 56,068 for total unlinked passenger trips (UPT) for the month.

Example 4 — Transit Agency Uses Sampling Procedure for Bus (MB) to Estimate the Total Unlinked Passenger Trips for the Month: FTA C 2710.1A for Bus (MB)

			Weekday					
	AM Peak	Midday	PM Peak	Other	Total	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Sample								
1. Unlinked Passengers	321	249	301	52		131	165	
Bus Trips								
2. Sampled	10	11	9	3		6	9	
3. Total	4,844	4,289	4,579	1,512		1,768	802	

**Solution:** Dividing the total sampled unlinked passenger trips (UPT) by the number of sampled trips results in the sample average. The sample averages for weekday, Saturday, and Sunday are multiplied by the respective total number of bus trips to calculate the monthly-unlinked passenger trips for weekday, Saturday, and Sunday. The total unlinked passenger trips (UPT) for weekday, Saturday, and Sunday are summed to arrive at the estimated total monthly-unlinked passenger trips.

## Sample Average

4. Passengers/Trips	32.10	22.64	33.44	17.33		21.83	18.33	
Monthly Total								
5. Unlinked Passengers	155,492	97,103	153,122	26,203	431,920	38,595	14,701	485,216

## Actual Vehicle (Passenger Car) Revenue Hours and Miles

Actual vehicle revenue hours (VRH) and miles (VRM) are incurred when non-rail service is available to the general public. These are the miles and hours traveled by vehicles in carrying passengers, plus layover/recovery time. It does not include the miles and hours for items such as deadhead, charter services, school bus service, operator training or maintenance testing. For rail service, the data are reported in terms of passenger car revenue hours and miles.

More detailed information about the collection of revenue hours (VRH) and miles (VRM) is presented in the Service Module section of this manual.

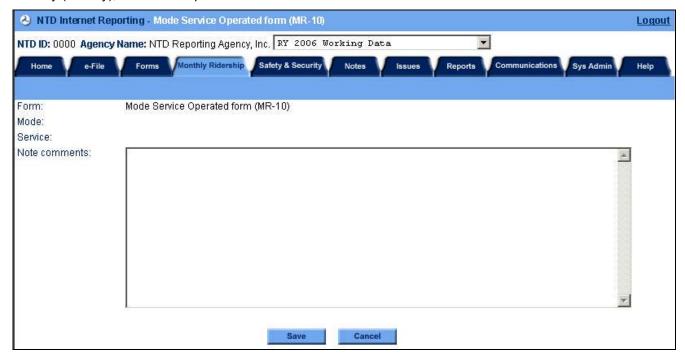
## **Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service**

This is the number of <u>revenue vehicles/passenger cars</u> operated to meet the maximum service requirement during the month. In most instances, this is the number of scheduled vehicles/passenger cars since most transit agencies have sufficient vehicles/passenger cars to operate the scheduled service. Vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) / passenger cars in operation exclude atypical days or one-time special events.

This data item is different than the <u>vehicles operated in annual maximum service</u> (VOMS) that is reported on the Service form (S-10). The difference between the forms is the time period used in the definition— a month in the Ridership Activity form (MR-20) and a fiscal year in the Service form (S-10).

## **Number of Regular Service Days Each Month**

Enter the number of days during the month that the agency operates normal weekday service. Saturday, Sunday (holiday), reduced or special event service should not be included.



#### **Form Notes**

A **Form Note** can be attached to any form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD. Use the **Add Form Note** link for relevant information to a specific field, to the entire form or to multiple forms. Click on the **Add Form Note** link at the top of the screen and enter your note on the **Notes** screen. You can review and / or edit a **Form Note** from the **Notes** tab.

## **Line by Line Instructions**

## Completing the Ridership Activity form (MR-20)

From the **Monthly Ridership** screen, click on the **Ridership Activity form (MR-20)** link for the mode and type of service (TOS). Complete the Ridership Activity form (MR-20) following the instructions in this section.

#### **Form Notes**

A **Form Note** can be attached to any form to explain unusual circumstances or data discrepancies that impact the data being submitted to the NTD. Use the **Add Form Note** link for relevant information to a specific field, to the entire form or to multiple forms. Click on the **Add Form Note** link at the top of the screen and enter your note on the **Notes** screen. You can review and / or edit a **Form Note** from the **Notes** tab.

#### **Getting Help**

Form Level Help: Click on the Help tab at the top of the screen for form level help.

#	Column	Item	Action	Instruction
Rail				
01-12	а	By Month — Unlinked Trips (UPT)		Enter the number of <u>unlinked passenger trips</u> (UPT) (need not be audited).
01-12	b	By Month — Passenger Car Revenue Hours		Enter the number of actual <u>passenger car revenue hours</u> (need not be audited).
01-12	С	By Month — Passenger Car Revenue Miles		Enter the number of actual <u>passenger car revenue hours</u> (need not be audited).
01-12	d	By Month — Passenger Cars in Operation		Enter the number of passenger cars in operation (need not be audited).
01-12	е	Number of Regular Service Days each Month		Enter the number of days during the month that the agency operates normal weekday service. Saturday, Sunday (holiday), reduced or special event service should not be included.
01-12	f	By Month — Submit Date	Auto-Calc field — cannot be edited.	When all data have been entered for a particular month and the data have been verified for accuracy, the month's data can be submitted to FTA by clicking the <b>Submit</b> button for that row. The submit date is the date that the user last submitted data for a particular month.
Non-Rail				
01-12	а	By Month — Unlinked Trips (UPT)		Enter the number of <u>unlinked passenger trips</u> (UPT) (need not be audited).
01-12	b	By Month — Vehicle Revenue Hours (VRH)		Enter the number of <u>actual vehicle revenue hours</u> (VRH) (need not be audited).
01-12	С	By Month — Vehicle Revenue Miles (VRM)		Enter the number of <u>actual vehicle revenue miles</u> (VRM) (need not be audited).
01-12	d	By Month — Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service (VOMS)		Enter the number of <u>vehicles operated in maximum</u> <u>service</u> (VOMS) (need not be audited).
01-12	е	Number of Regular Service Days each Month		Enter the number of days during the month that the agency operates normal weekday service. Saturday, Sunday (holiday), reduced or special event service should not be included.
01-12	f	By Month — Submit Date	Auto-Calc field — cannot be edited.	When all data have been entered for a particular month and the data have been verified for accuracy, the month's data can be submitted to FTA by clicking the <b>Submit</b> button for that row. The submit date is the date that the user last submitted data for a particular month.

#### Saving the Ridership Activity form (MR-20)

Click on the Save button at the bottom of the screen to save the form.

Click on the Close button at the bottom of the screen to close the form without saving.

#### Completing the Ridership Activity form (MR-20)

Submitting the Ridership Activity form (MR-20)

Data for each month are entered by row. When the data for each month (row) has been verified, submit the data to FTA by clicking the **Submit** button. This procedure is followed each month.

Click on the Close button to return to the Monthly Ridership tab.

# **Monthly Ridership Manual Glossary**

Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
Actual Passenger Car Revenue Hours	The hours that passenger cars travel while in revenue service. Passenger car revenue hours include:  Layover/recovery time But exclude:  Deadhead  Operator training  Vehicle maintenance tests, and  Charter services.	MR-20
Actual Passenger Car Revenue Miles	The miles that passenger cars travel while in revenue service. Passenger car revenue miles exclude:  Deadhead  Operator training  Vehicle maintenance tests, and  Charter services.	MR-20
Actual Vehicle Hours	The hours that vehicles travel while in revenue service (actual vehicle revenue hours (VRH)) plus deadhead hours. Actual vehicle hours exclude:  • Hours for charter service  • School bus service  • Operator training, and  • Vehicle maintenance testing.	Internet Reporting
Actual Vehicle Miles	The miles that vehicles travel while in revenue service (actual vehicle revenue miles (VRM)) plus deadhead miles. Actual vehicle miles exclude:  • Miles for charter services  • School bus service  • Operator training, and  • Vehicle maintenance testing.	Internet Reporting
Actual Vehicle Revenue Hours (VRH)	The hours that vehicles travel while in revenue service. Vehicle revenue hours include:  Layover/recovery time But exclude:  Deadhead  Operator training  Maintenance testing, as well as  School bus and charter services.	Internet Reporting MR-20
Actual Vehicle Revenue Miles (VRM)	The miles that vehicles travel while in revenue service. Vehicle revenue miles include:  Layover/recovery time But exclude:  Deadhead  Operator training and maintenance testing, as well as  School bus and charter services.	Internet Reporting MR-10
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	
Aerial Tramway (TR)	A transit mode that is an electric system of aerial cables with suspended powerless passenger vehicles. The vehicles are propelled by separate cables attached to the vehicle suspension system and powered by engines or motors at a central location not on-board the vehicle.	MR-10
AG	Automated Guideway Transit	
Alaska Railroad (AR)	In recognition of the special Federal relationship with the Alaska railroad (AR), a segment of the passenger service portion of the Alaska railroad (AR) is considered	MR-10

Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
	to be eligible for certain FTA funding under the Fixed Guideway Modernization program. The service encompasses only those lines operating within the Anchorage, Alaska, urbanized area (UZA) where passenger service is provided and only includes car miles for passenger cars; car miles for freight cars are specifically excluded.	
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)	The legislation defining the responsibilities of and requirements for transportation providers to make transportation accessible to individuals with disabilities.	Introduction
AR	Alaska Railroad	
Automated Guideway (AG) Transit	A transit mode that is an electric railway (single or multi-car trains) of guided transit vehicles operating without vehicle operators or other crew on-board the vehicle. Service may be on a fixed schedule or in response to a passenger activated call button. Automated guideway (AG) transit includes:  Personal rapid transit  Group rapid transit, and  People mover systems.	MR-10
Average Weekday Unlinked Passenger Trips	The number of passengers who board public transportation vehicles on an average, typical weekday during a month.	MR-20
Bus (MB)	A transit mode comprised of rubber-tired passenger vehicles operating on fixed routes and schedules over roadways. Vehicles are powered by:  Diesel Gasoline Battery, or Alternative fuel engines contained within the vehicle.	MR-10
Buyer	The NTD reporter contracting with a seller under a purchased transportation agreement to provide transit services. The contractor may be a public transit agency or a private company.	Introduction
Cable Car (CC)	A transit mode that is an electric railway with individually controlled transit vehicles attached to a moving cable located below the street surface and powered by engines or motors at a central location, not on-board the vehicle.	MR-10
Capital Expenses	<ul> <li>The expenses related to the purchase of equipment. Equipment means an article of non-expendable tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals the lesser of:</li> <li>The capitalization level established by the government unit for financial statement purposes, or</li> <li>\$5,000.</li> <li>Capital expenses do not include operating expenses (OE) that are eligible to use capital funds.</li> </ul>	Introduction
CC	Cable Car	
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	
Charter Service	A vehicle hired for exclusive use that does not operate over a regular route, on a regular schedule and is not available to the general public.	Introduction
Charter Service Hours	The total hours operated by revenue vehicles while in charter service. Charter service hours include:  Hours operated while carrying passengers for hire, plus Associated deadhead hours.	MR-10
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	The principal executive in charge of and responsible for the transit agency.	Introduction
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Certification	A letter signed by the chief executive officer (CEO) of a transit agency certifying the accuracy of the data submitted to the NTD.	Introduction
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program	

Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
Commuter Rail (CR)	A transit mode that is an electric or diesel propelled railway for urban passenger train service consisting of local short distance travel operating between a central city and adjacent suburbs. Service must be operated on a regular basis by or under contract with a transit operator for the purpose of transporting passengers within urbanized areas (UZAs), or between urbanized areas and outlying areas.  Such rail service, using either locomotive hauled or self-propelled railroad passenger cars, is generally characterized by:  • Multi-trip tickets  • Specific station to station fares  • Railroad employment practices, and  • Usually only one or two stations in the central business district. It does not include:  • Heavy rail (HR) rapid transit, or  • Light rail (LR) / streetcar transit service. Intercity rail service is excluded, except for that portion of such service that is operated by or under contract with a public transit agency for predominantly commuter services. Predominantly commuter services means that for any given trip segment (i.e., distance between any two stations), more than 50 percent of the average daily ridership commutes on the train each day. A commuter is a person that travels back and forth during the same day primarily within an urbanized area (UZA). Only the predominantly commuter service portion of an intercity route is eligible for inclusion when determining commuter rail (CR) route miles.	MR-10
Complementary Paratransit Services	Transportation service required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed route transportation systems. This service must be comparable to the level of service provided to individuals without disabilities who use the fixed route system and meet the requirements specified in Sections 37.123-137.133 of <i>Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities (Part 37), Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Volume 1.</i> The complementary services must be origin-to-destination service (demand response (DR)) or on-call demand response (DR) service to an accessible fixed route where such service enables the individual to use the fixed route bus (MB) system for his or her trip.	Introduction
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds transferred from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) to FTA for transit projects. This program is to help improve air quality and to manage traffic congestion. Transferred funds may be used for capital expansion and improvements that increase ridership, travel demand management strategies, shared ride services, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	Introduction
Cooperative Agreement	An agreement where one or more public transit agencies or governmental units contribute to, or are assessed for, the value of public transit services provided by another public transit agency. There is usually a written memorandum of understanding or mutual agreement on the calculation and payment for the services. Generally, the service is part of the public transit agency's directly operated (DO) service.	Introduction
CR	Commuter Rail	
Deadhead (Miles and Hours)	The miles and hours that a vehicle travels when out of revenue service. Deadhead includes:  Leaving or returning to the garage or yard facility  Changing routes  When there is no expectation of carrying revenue passengers. However, deadhead does not include:  Charter service  School bus service  Operator training  Maintenance training.	Internet Reporting MR-20
Demand Response (DR)	A transit mode comprised of passenger cars, vans or small buses operating in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the transit operator, who then	MR-10

Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
Key Word	<ul> <li>Definition</li> <li>dispatches a vehicle to pick up the passengers and transport them to their destinations. A demand response (DR) operation is characterized by the following:</li> <li>a. The vehicles do not operate over a fixed route or on a fixed schedule except, perhaps, on a temporary basis to satisfy a special need, and</li> <li>b. Typically, the vehicle may be dispatched to pick up several passengers at different pick-up points before taking them to their respective destinations and may even be interrupted en route to these destinations to pick up other passengers.</li> <li>The following types of operations fall under the above definitions provided they are not on a scheduled fixed route basis:</li> <li>Many origins — many destinations</li> <li>Many origin — one destination, and</li> <li>One origin — one destination.</li> </ul>	Manual Location
Directly Operated (DO)	Transportation service provided directly by a transit agency, using their employees to supply the necessary labor to operate the revenue vehicles. This includes instances where an agency's employees provide purchased transportation (PT) services to the agency through a contractual agreement.	Introduction MR-10
DO	Directly Operated	
DR	Demand Response	
Emergency Contingency Vehicles	Revenue vehicles placed in an inactive contingency fleet for energy or other local emergencies after the revenue vehicles have reached the end of their normal minimum useful life. The vehicles must be properly stored and maintained, and FTA must approve the Emergency Contingency Plan. Substantial changes to the plan (10% change in fleet) require re-approval by FTA.	Introduction
Failure to Report	Submitting a late report, incomplete report or no report.	Introduction
FARE	Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Elements	
FB	Ferryboat	
Ferryboat (FB)	A transit mode comprised of vessels carrying passengers and / or vehicles over a body of water that are generally steam or diesel powered.  Intercity ferryboat (FB) service is excluded, except for that portion of such service that is operated by or under contract with a public transit agency for predominantly commuter services. Predominantly commuter service means that for any given trip segment (i.e., distance between any two piers), more than 50 percent of the average daily ridership commutes on the ferryboat each day. A commuter is a person that travels back and forth during the same day primarily within an urbanized area (UZA). Only the predominantly commuter service portion of an intercity route is eligible for inclusion when determining ferryboat (FB) route miles.	MR-10
FG	Fixed Guideway	
Fixed Guideway (FG)	<ul> <li>A public transportation facility using and occupying:</li> <li>A separate right-of-way (ROW) or rail for the exclusive use of public transportation and other high occupancy vehicles (HOV), or</li> <li>A fixed catenary system useable by other forms of transportation.</li> </ul>	Introduction
FTA	Federal Transit Administration	
FTA Urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5307)	Section 5307 of the Federal Transit Act. This program makes Federal resources available for capital projects and to finance the planning and improvement costs of equipment, facilities and associated capital maintenance items for use in public transportation. The program also allows funds for operating assistance in urbanized areas (UZAs) of less than 200,000 population.	Introduction
FTA Urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5307) Funds	<ul> <li>Financial assistance from Section 5307 of the Federal Transit Act. This program makes Federal resources available for capital projects and to finance:</li> <li>The planning and improvement costs of equipment</li> <li>Facilities and associated capital maintenance items for use in public transportation.</li> <li>The program also allows funds for operating assistance in urbanized areas (UZAs)</li> </ul>	Introduction

		Reporting
Key Word	Definition	Manual Location
	of less than 200,000 population.	
Heavy Rail (HR)	A transit mode that is an electric railway with the capacity for a heavy volume of traffic. It is characterized by:	MR-10
	<ul> <li>High speed and rapid acceleration passenger rail cars operating singly or in multi-car trains on fixed rails</li> </ul>	
	Separate rights-of-way (ROW) from which all other vehicular and foot traffic are excluded	
	<ul><li>Sophisticated signaling, and</li><li>High platform loading.</li></ul>	
HR	Heavy Rail	
IAS	Independent Auditor Statement	
Inclined Plane (IP)	A transit mode that is a railway operating over exclusive right-of-way (ROW) on steep grades (slopes) with powerless vehicles propelled by moving cables attached to the vehicles and powered by engines or motors at a central location not onboard the vehicle. The special tramway type of vehicles have passenger seats that remain horizontal while the undercarriage (truck) is angled parallel to the slope.	MR-10
Incomplete	NTD report not containing all the required:	Introduction
Report	Reporting forms and data	MR Introduction
	Not in conformance with the NTD requirements, or	S&S Introduction
	<ul> <li>Not containing the chief executive officer (CEO) certification and Independent Auditor Statements (IAS), as applicable.</li> </ul>	
Independent	A person appointed and authorized to:	Introduction
Auditor	Examine accounts and accounting records	
	Make comparisons with vouchers, invoices and other documents, and  Otata the grounds.	
	<ul> <li>State the result.</li> <li>For NTD, the auditor must meet the independence criteria contained in the</li> </ul>	
	Government Auditing Standards (General Accounting Office).	
Independent Auditor Statement (IAS)	A letter signed by an independent public accountant or other independent entity (such as a state audit agency). There are two Independent Auditor Statements (IAS):	Introduction
	1. Independent Auditor Statement for Financial Data (IAS — FD), and	
	<ol> <li>Independent Auditor Statement for Federal Funding Allocation Data (IAS — FFA)</li> </ol>	
Intercity Bus Service	Regularly scheduled bus (MB) service for the general public, using an <u>over-the-road</u> bus (MB), that:	Introduction
	<ul> <li>Operates with limited stops over fixed routes connecting 2 or more urban areas not in close proximity or connecting 1 or more rural communities with an urban area not in close proximity;</li> </ul>	
	Has the capacity for transporting baggage carried by passengers; and	
	<ul> <li>Makes meaningful connections with scheduled intercity bus (MB) service to more distant points.</li> </ul>	
IP	Inclined Plane	
Jitney (JT)	A transit mode comprised of passenger cars or vans operating on fixed routes (sometimes with minor deviations) as demand warrants without fixed schedules or fixed stops.	MR-10
JT	Jitney	
Late Report	NTD report not submitted by the due date, the last day of the grace period or the extended due date.	Introduction
Layover /	The hours scheduled at the end of the route before the departure time of the next	MR-10
Recovery Time	trip. This time is scheduled for two reasons:	
	<ol> <li>To provide time for the vehicle operator to take a break (layover); and</li> <li>To provide time to get back on schedule before the next trip departs if the trip arrives late at the end of the route (recovery).</li> </ol>	

Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
Light Rail (LR)	<ul> <li>A transit mode that typically is an electric railway with a light volume traffic capacity compared to heavy rail (HR). It is characterized by:</li> <li>Passenger rail cars operating singly (or in short, usually two car, trains) on fixed rails in shared or exclusive right-of-way</li> <li>Low or high platform loading, and</li> <li>Vehicle power drawn from an overhead electric line via a trolley or a pantograph.</li> </ul>	MR-10
LR	Light Rail	
MB	Bus	
МО	Monorail	
Mode	A system for carrying transit passengers described by specific right-of-way, technology and operational features.	Introduction MR-10 MR-20
Monetary Consideration	<ul> <li>The consideration paid by the public body to the private or public seller of transportation service (private / public carrier). The monetary consideration may include any of the following:</li> <li>Cash reimbursement of a private / public carrier's operating deficit</li> <li>Negotiated rate per unit of service delivered by the private / public carrier</li> <li>Cash reimbursement to the private / public carrier for reduced fare programs specified by the public body (e.g., for students and for the elderly and persons with disabilities)</li> <li>Vehicles given, sold, loaned or leased by the public body to the private / public carrier at or below market value</li> <li>Maintenance facility leased by the public body to the private / public carrier.</li> </ul>	Introduction
Monorail (MO)	A transit mode that is an electric railway of guided transit vehicles operating singly or in multi-car trains. The vehicles are suspended from or straddle a guideway formed by a single beam, rail or tube.	MR-10
NFG	Non-Fixed Guideway	
Nine or Fewer Vehicles Waiver	Relief from filing a complete NTD report if the transit agency operates nine or fewer vehicles in annual maximum service across all modes and types of service, and all service operates on non-fixed guideway (NFG) (mixed traffic right-of-way).	Introduction MR-10
Non-Fixed Guideway (NFG)	Mixed traffic right-of-way (ROW). For Federal funding purposes, excludes trolleybus (TB) and ferryboat (FB) modes, which are considered fixed guideway (FG).	Introduction
Non-Rail Modes	Transit modes whose vehicles typically operate on roadways — streets, highways or expressways, but may also operate on waterways (ferryboat (FB) or via aerial cable (aerial tramways (TR). Vehicles are typically powered by motors on-board the vehicle, with one exception, aerial tramway (TR) vehicles which are electrically powered by a motor not on-board the vehicle in order to pull the vehicle via an overhead cable. NTD recognizes eight non-rail modes:  1. Bus (MB)  2. Demand response (DR)  3. Ferryboat (FB)  4. Jitney (JT)  5. Publico (PB)  6. Trolleybus (TB)  7. Aerial tramway (TR), and  8. Vanpool (VP).	Introduction MR-10
Non-Urbanized Area (Non-UZA)	An area (a population of fewer than 50,000) so designated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.	Introduction
Non-UZA	Non-Urbanized Area	
NTD ID	NTD Identification Number	
NTD Identification	A unique FTA-assigned number (NTD ID) that each transit agency must have	Introduction

Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
Number (NTD ID)	before filing a report.	
OE	Operating Expenses	
Operating Assistance	Financial funding to help cover the operating costs of providing transit services. Operating costs are classified by function or activity and the goods and services purchased. The basic functions and object classes are detailed in the Operating Expenses form (F-30) and are defined in Section 5.2 and 6.2 of the Uniform System of Accounts (USOA).	Introduction
Operating Expenses (OE)	The expenses associated with the operation of the transit agency, and classified by function or activity, and the goods and services purchased. The basic functions and object classes are defined in Section 5.2 and 6.2 of the Uniform System of Accounts (USOA).  These are consumable items with a useful life of less than one year or an acquisition cost which equals the lesser of:  The capitalization level established by the government unit for financial statement purposes or  \$5,000.	Internet Reporting
Operators	The personnel (other than security agents) scheduled to be aboard vehicles in revenue operations, including:  • Vehicle operators  • Conductors  • Ticket collectors.  Operators may also include: Attendants who are transit agency employees that are aboard vehicles to assist riders in boarding and alighting, securing wheelchairs, etc., typically the elderly and persons with disabilities.	Introduction
Over-the-Road Bus	A bus characterized by an elevated passenger deck located over a baggage compartment.	Introduction
Passenger Cars in Operation	The maximum number of passenger cars actually operated to provide service on an average weekday, average Saturday and average Sunday.	MR-20
Passenger Miles (PM)	The cumulative sum of the distances ridden by each passenger.	Internet Reporting
PB	Publico	
PM	Passenger Miles	
Private For Profit Provider	A non-public entity that provides public transportation services. For-profit entities exist primarily to generate a profit, (i.e., a surplus of revenues over expenditures).	Introduction
Private Non-Profit Provider	A non-public entity with a tax-free status that provides public transportation services. Nonprofit entities exist to provide a particular service (e.g., public transportation) to the community. Nonprofit refers to a type of business — one which is organized under rules that forbid the distribution of profits to owners. Profit refers to a surplus of revenues over expenditures.	Introduction
PT	Purchased Transportation	
Public Agency or Transit System	A <u>public entity</u> that provides public transportation services. It may be a state or local government, or any department, special purpose district (e.g. transit or transportation district), authority or other instrumentality of one or more state or local governments (e.g., joint powers agency).	Introduction
Public Entity	<ol> <li>Any of the following three categories (49CFR37):</li> <li>Any state or local government</li> <li>Any department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of one or more state or local governments</li> <li>The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and any commuter authority.</li> </ol>	Introduction
Public Transportation	As defined in the Federal Transit Act, public transportation means transportation by bus or rail, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, providing to the public general or special service (but not including <a href="school buses">school buses</a> or <a href="charter">charter</a> or	MR-10

Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
	sightseeing service) on a regular and continuing basis. Public transportation is also synonymous with the terms mass transportation and transit.	
Publico (PB)	A transit mode comprised of passenger vans or small buses operating with fixed routes but no fixed schedules. Publicos (PB) are a privately owned and operated public transit service which is market oriented and unsubsidized, but regulated through a public service commission, state or local government. Publicos (PB) are operated under franchise agreements, fares are regulated by route and there are special insurance requirements. Vehicle capacity varies from eight to 24, and the vehicles may be owned or leased by the operator.	MR-10
Purchased Transportation (PT)	Transportation service provided to a public transit agency or governmental unit from a public or private transportation provider based on a written contract. The provider is obligated in advance to operate public transportation services for a public transit agency or governmental unit for a specific monetary consideration, using its own employees to operate revenue vehicles. Purchased transportation (PT) does not include:  Franchising  Licensing operations  Management services  Cooperative agreements, or  Private conventional bus service.	Introduction MR-10 MR-20
Rail Modes	Transit modes whose vehicles travel along fixed rails —bars of rolled steel—forming a track. The vehicles are usually electrically propelled typically through motors on-board the vehicles, but motors may also be at a central location not on-board the vehicles to pull the vehicles by cables (cable car (CC), inclined plane (IP)). For commuter rail (CR), vehicles may be self-propelled or may be drawn by a locomotive. NTD recognizes eight rail modes:  1. Automated guideway (AG) transit  2. Cable car (CC)  3. Commuter rail (CR)  4. Heavy rail (HR)  5. Inclined plane (IP)  6. Light rail (LR)  7. Monorail (MO), and  8. Alaska railroad (AR).	Introduction MR-10
Revenue Vehicle	The floating and rolling stock used to provide revenue service for passengers.	Introduction MR-10
Sampling	A statistical technique for the collection of passenger mile data. The sampling technique may be one of the FTA approved procedures or an alternative methodology that meets FTA's requirements for statistical reliability (95 percent confidence and $\pm 10$ percent precision).	MR-10 MR-20
School Bus Hours	The vehicle hours of travel by revenue vehicles while serving as a school bus. School bus hours are only hours where a bus is primarily or solely dedicated to carrying school passengers.	MR-20
School Bus Service	The exclusive use of buses to carry children and school personnel to and from their schools or school-related activities. It includes county school buses, private school buses, and buses chartered from private companies for the express purposes of carrying students to or from school and / or school-related activities.	Introduction
Seller	The public agency or private company providing transit services under a purchase transportation (PT) agreement with the NTD reporter buying the transit services. The seller uses its employees to operate the service (vehicle operators).	Introduction
Sightseeing Service	A service whose purpose is to carry passengers on tours and excursions or to visit and see objects and places of interest. Sightseeing may or may not involve a tour guide.	Introduction
Spare Vehicles	The revenue vehicles maintained by the transit agency to:  Meet routine and heavy maintenance requirements	Introduction

Meet unexpected vehicle breakdowns or accidents			Reporting
TB Trolleybus Trolleyb	Key Word	Definition	
TOS Type of Service TR Aerial Tramway Trolleybus (TB) Aerial Tramway Trolleybus (TB) Aerial Tramway A transit mode comprised of electric rubber-tired passenger vehicles, manually stered and operating singly on city streets. Vehicles are propelled by a motor drawing current through overhead wires via trolleys, from a central power source not on-board the vehicle.  Describes how public transportation services are provided by the transit agency: directly operated (DO) or purchased transportation (PT) services.  Introduction MR-10 MR-20 Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Elements (FARE) Uniform System of Accounts (USOA)  A structure of categories and definitions used for NTD reporting to ensure uniform data. The USOA contains:  (USOA)  A structure of categories and definitions used for NTD reporting to ensure uniform data. The USOA contains:  1. Various categories of accounts and records for classifying financial (Chart of Accounts) and operating data 2. Definitions of the data elements included in each category 3. Definitions of practices for the orderly and regular collection and recording of line data.  The number of passengers who board public transportation vehicles. Passengers are counted each time they board vehicles no matter how many vehicles they use to travel from their origin to their destination.  Urbanized Area (UZA)  Urbanized Area (UZA)  Urbanized Area (UZA)  Urbanized Area  Urban fringe generally consists of contiguous territory (urban fringe) that together have a minimum of 50,000 persons. The urban fringe generally consists of contiguous territory having a density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile. Urbanized areas do not conform to congressional districts or any other political boundaries.  UZA  Urbanized Area  Vanpool (VP)  A transit mode comprised of vans, small buses and other vehicles operating as a rice sharing arrangement, providing transportation to a group of individuals traveling directly between their homes and a regular destination within the same geographical area. The			
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Key Word	Definition	Reporting Manual Location
Vehicles Available for Annual Maximum Service	The number of revenue vehicles available to meet the annual maximum service requirement. Vehicles available for maximum service include:  • Spares  • Out of service vehicles, and  • Vehicles in or awaiting maintenance.  But exclude:  • Vehicles awaiting sale, and  • Emergency contingency vehicles.	Introduction
Vehicles Operated in Annual Maximum Service (VOMS)	The number of revenue vehicles operated to meet the annual maximum service requirement. This is the revenue vehicle count during the peak season of the year; on the week and day that maximum service is provided. Vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) exclude:  • Atypical days, or  • One-time special events.	Introduction MR-10
Voluntary NTD Reporter	Transit agency, public or private, which is not a recipient or beneficiary of Urbanized Area Formula Program funds.	Introduction
VOMS	Vehicles Operated in Annual Maximum Service	
VP	Vanpool	
VRH	Actual Vehicle Revenue Hours	
VRM	Actual Vehicle Revenue Miles	

NTD Monthly Ridership Reporting Manual